The Journal Needs YOU!

As I write this editorial, the news is filled with stories of endless wrangling about various kinds of "chad"—dimpled, pregnant, hanging—as well as voting irregularities and lawsuits relating to the outcome of the U.S. presidential election. This got me thinking about how you, as a reader of the Journal of Adventist Education, would vote if we asked you what you would like to read in our publication.

It's been some time since we had a formal survey of readers, so we are eager to hear from you. What sorts of Journal of Adventist Education articles are most helpful to you and your colleagues? What topics do you read most often? What do you usually skip over? Would you like to see book reviews? Columns on specific topics? News? Humor? Inspirational articles? Controversial issues? More theme issues? Fewer theme issues? If you like theme issues, please suggest some topics such issues might feature.

Trying to produce a publication that is consistently relevant and attractive to the enormously diverse readership of the Journal of Adventist Education is a superhuman (and probably impossible) task. What does a kindergarten teacher want to read that a graduate-level physics professor would also enjoy? Even within a discipline, there are many differences between approaches and methods, as well as variations among schools in different parts of the world.

And even when we are convinced that a particular topic is relevant and interesting to many readers, it's often difficult to find an author who is willing and can find the time to write about it! Adventist teachers are busy people, with full-time teaching responsibilities, plus committees and parent/teacher conferences and continuing education that fill their days (and nights!).

But we keep trying. Awards from Educational Press Association and the church have provided some reassurance that we’re on the right track. Through the years, we have consistently maintained our commitment to make the Journal of Adventist Education a “handbook for teachers,” featuring practical help with classroom challenges and responsibilities. However, there are many other sources of professional enrichment for teachers, both in print and online. We are not trying to compete with them or replace them. Every Adventist educator should engage in a good deal of professional reading to keep up with current trends and new approaches.

Far more important than just providing helpful tips, however, is the Journal of Adventist Education’s prophetic function. It is the only publication that seeks to integrate faith and learning in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian perspective, and to help teachers fulfill their high calling of preparing young people for life on earth as well as in a heavenly kingdom.

So, readers, let us know what you would like to read about! And how about volunteerizing to write an article on one of those topics? You can contact us by phone, E-mail, letter, or fax. Send your ideas and suggestions for future articles (and authors) to

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We look forward to hearing from you!